

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
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WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION  
HOMELAND-GREEN ACRES AND ROMOLAND AREAS  
EXEMPTION CRITERIA

On September 17, 1982, following a public hearing, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, adopted the following waste discharge prohibition as an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin.

CHAPTER VI (Amendment)  
WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

## Prohibitions Applying to Subsurface Leaching Percolation Systems:

The discharge of waste within the Homeland-Green Acres and Romoland areas of Riverside County from leaching or percolation systems installed after September 17, 1982 is prohibited. An exemption to this prohibition may be granted by the Regional Board after presentation by the proposed discharger of geologic and hydrologic evidence that the discharge of waste will not individually or collectively, result in a pollution or nuisance.

The discharge of waste within the Homeland-Green Acres and Romoland areas of Riverside County from leaching or percolation systems is prohibited after July 1, 1987. An exemption to this prohibition may be granted by the Regional Board upon the finding that the continued use, operation or maintenance of subsurface leaching or percolation systems will not individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, affect water quality or create a nuisance.

In addition, the Regional Board directed the staff to prepare guidelines for the administration of the exemption provisions provided in the discharge prohibitions. The purpose of these guidelines is: (1) to set down procedures to be used by the staff of the Regional Board in processing requests for exemptions; (2) to determine the criteria on which a request for exemptions will be evaluated; (3) to establish equitable procedures for those projects that were underway at the time the Board adopted the prohibition, and; (4) to provide the necessary communication and coordination among the various persons and public agencies involved in the areas affected by the discharge prohibition.

## I. EXEMPTIONS FROM THE WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION

- A. Two types of exemptions will be issued by the Regional Board. Temporary exemptions will expire on the final date of the waste discharge prohibition. Continuing exemptions will allow continued use of subsurface leaching percolation systems where such use will not affect water quality.

- B. All existing subsurface leaching percolation system discharges will be subject to the termination of discharge by the final date of the waste discharge prohibition unless a continuing exemption is obtained.
  - C. All projects which receive a temporary exemption for a subsurface leaching system discharge will be subject to the termination of discharge by the final date of the waste discharge prohibition unless a continuing exemption is obtained.
  - D. All projects which result in the alteration or replacement of an existing disposal system will be provided a temporary exemption if no additional flow will result from the project.
  - E. The Regional Board may, at its discretion, establish waste discharge requirements for any development which has received an exemption from the prohibition.
  - F. The Regional Board Executive Officer is delegated the authority to grant or deny an exemption from the waste discharge prohibition based on a finding by the Regional Board that the discharge will not result in a pollution or nuisance or affect water quality if the exemption criteria hereinafter provided is complied with.
  - G. If the exemption is granted, the applicant and the Riverside County Departments of Public Health and Building and Safety will be provided with copies of the attached form (Attachment "A") for approval of a building permit.
  - H. If the exemption is denied, the applicant will be provided with a letter explaining the reasons for denial. The applicant may file a request for review of the exemption denial with the Regional Board within 10 days after receipt of the denial and a hearing will be held at the next convenient Regional Board meeting.
  - I. The Executive Officer will report to the Regional Board at its regular meetings the number of exemption approvals and/or denials which have been processed by the staff.
- II. DEVELOPMENTS OR PROJECTS UNDERWAY PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION
- A. All land development projects or individual dwelling units which have received valid County building permits prior to September 17, 1982, will be issued a temporary exemption from the prohibition provided the construction phase of the project proceeds as required by applicable County statutes.
  - B. Developments or projects which have allowed a prior building permit to expire will be required to apply for an exemption according to the criteria hereinafter provided.

### III. PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTIONS

- A. All persons requesting an exemption from the waste discharge prohibition shall provide the following data to the Regional Board office:
  1. Name and address of the owner or agent
  2. A plot plan showing the location and lot size
  3. A legal description of the property
  4. Type of occupancy and type of waste proposed to be discharged
  5. Type of exemption requested (temporary or continuing)
  6. A copy of a soil report<sup>1\*</sup> containing all information necessary to show compliance with the minimum criteria (Section IV)
  7. Any other information upon which the request for an exemption may be evaluated.
- B. Within 15 days of the receipt of the above information, the applicant will be notified that an exemption is either granted or denied.

### IV. MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR SUBSURFACE DISCHARGE OF DOMESTIC WASTE

Unless the applicant demonstrates by substantial evidence to the Regional Board that the discharge will not individually or collectively result in a pollution, nuisance or contamination, the following criteria are considered necessary for the protection of water quality objectives, to prevent impairment of beneficial uses, to prevent pollution, nuisance or contamination, and to prevent unreasonable degradation of water quality. These criteria apply both to areas where the subsurface disposal system is proposed to be installed, and to areas allocated for 100 percent expansion.

- A. Depth of soil between the natural ground surface and historic high ground water or impermeable strata shall not be less than 10 feet.
- B. There shall be not less than five feet of soil between the bottom of the disposal facilities and historic high ground water.
- C. There shall be at least eight feet of soil between the bottom of the disposal facilities and impermeable strata.
- D. The percolation rate of the soil shall not be slower than 60 minutes per inch if the discharge is to a leachfield, and not less than 1.1 gallons of effluent per square foot per day if the discharge is through a seepage pit.

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\*See Definitions and Notes on Page 6

- E. If percolation rates are faster than five minutes per inch:
  - a. The minimum depth between the bottom of the disposal facilities and the historic high ground water shall be 40 feet, or
  - b. there shall be at least five feet of soil containing not less than 10 percent of particles smaller than 0.08 millimeters between the bottom of the disposal facilities and the historic high ground water.
- F. Neither the natural nor finished ground slope shall be greater than 30 percent.
- G. Compliance is required with all applicable local requirements, including but not limited to requirements on lot size, distance from wells, streams, drainage courses, reservoirs, adjoining properties, or other points.

#### V. WASTE DISCHARGE PROHIBITION - EXEMPTION CRITERIA

##### A. No Exemption

The Regional Board finds that discharge of wastes from developments in the following categories may individually or collectively result in a pollution or nuisance or affect water quality, therefore, no exemption will be granted without special findings by the Regional Board:

1. Any development not in compliance with the Exemption Criteria specified in Section V. B. or C., or
2. Any commercial<sup>2\*</sup> or industrial properties with peak waste loads exceeding 350 gallons per day, or
3. Any facility discharging other than domestic wastes<sup>3\*</sup>, or
4. Any dwelling within 200 feet of existing sewer designed to serve the lot.

##### B. Temporary Exemptions

The Regional Board finds that the discharge of wastes from developments meeting the following criteria will not individually or collectively result in a pollution or nuisance prior to the final date of the Waste Discharge Prohibition:

1. Projects which comply with the "Minimum Criteria for Subsurface Discharge of Domestic Waste" provided above, and
2. which have a minimum lot size of one-half acre<sup>4\*</sup>, and

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\*See Definitions and Notes on Page 6

3. a lot with a minimum size of less than one-half acre may qualify for an exemption if an easement for sewage disposal is recorded on adjacent lot, which will provide a net area of one-half acre. Only one easement on any given parcel shall be acceptable under this Provision.

C. Continuing Exemptions

The Regional Board finds that the discharge of wastes from developments meeting the following criteria will not individually or collectively, directly, or indirectly, affect water quality or create a nuisance after the final date of the Waste Discharge Prohibition:

1. Projects which comply with the "Minimum Criteria for Subsurface Discharge of Domestic Waste" provided above, and
2. which have a minimum lot size of one acre<sup>4\*</sup>.

DEFINITIONS AND NOTES

- <sup>1</sup>SOIL REPORT: In order that all test procedures and reporting be standardized, the following outlines the basic requirements for acceptance of reports by the Water Quality Control Board. Such reports shall be prepared by a Registered Civil Engineer or a California Certified Engineering Geologist.
- The report shall include the normal routine items such as owner's name, address, job location, legal description of property, lot size, date of test, type of occupancy of property, etc.
- Percolation tests are required for each parcel. The test procedure shall be as described by Riverside County regulations for leachfield and seepage pit systems.
- A descriptive log of the soil shall be furnished for each test. A statement regarding the present and historic high ground water elevation shall be made.
- The engineer or geologist preparing the report shall include in the Soils Report a plot plan, a system design, and other information required by the County Health Department.
- <sup>2</sup>COMMERCIAL: This includes, but is not limited to, wholesale or retail sales activities, multiple family unit developments of two (2) or more units (such as mobilehome parks, condominiums, apartment-house complexes, etc.).
- <sup>3</sup>DOMESTIC WASTE: Wastewater produced solely from human habitation or associated commercial facilities. This includes but is not limited to dwellings, markets, restaurants, office buildings. This does not include wastes which are separate but generated by industrial or manufacturing processes and which may have waste components which could affect waters of the State.
- <sup>4</sup>LOT SIZE: Excluding streets, curbs, and other public improvements, but including easements, except easements which are likely to cause disposal problems such as those for stormwater flood flow, etc.